



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 SEPTEMBER 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu recently made the first public reference to a need for US troops in the IV Corps area to assure the security of the Mekong Delta.

Thieu's statement was probably intended as another move in a campaign to remove IV Corps commander Quang and Defense Minister Co, with whom he has been closely associated. General Quang, who has long been at odds with other military leaders and whose ouster has been rumored for months, has boasted that he needs no US ground forces.

2. Vietnam

The Communist build-up in northernmost South Vietnam and the Demilitarized Zone raises the possibility of important changes in North Vietnamese strategy.

[REDACTED]

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3. Indonesia

The confrontation between Sukarno and Indonesia's real rulers is about to enter a sharper phase. Sukarno's close crony, former foreign minister Subandrio, is to go on trial soon, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Trial proceedings will further discredit Sukarno himself.

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If Sukarno resists, as he is likely to, he may well be sent abroad. [REDACTED]

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4. Rhodesia

White Rhodesians were "shattered" when they read this week's communiqué from the Commonwealth Conference. A few cool heads still feel that something yet may be gained through talks with the British, but most look on the communiqué as an unacceptable ultimatum.

Defiance is the expected reaction. Ian Smith will probably be empowered at his party's conference next week to declare the country a republic at some time of his choosing. Such a move will not make much difference in practice but will dramatize the finality of separation.

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5. United Nations

One of the thorniest and most immediate issues to be faced after the General Assembly opens next week will be on South-West Africa.

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6. Ecuador

President Yerovi cannot seem to get the ball rolling on preparations for the promised constituent assembly elections next month. The public is apathetic and the politicians are squabbling ineffectually.

The old rabble rouser, ex-President Velasco, is watching eagerly from the sidelines. He has the kind of mob support which the leaders of a new coup effort would find most useful if they want to put on a show of popular backing.

7. Uruguay

For the first time the Communists have shown that they can engineer a major strike on a basically political issue. Last Thursday's 24-hour general strike in Montevideo was a success by any standard.

The Communists wanted to demonstrate labor's repudiation of a constitutional reform proposal designed to give Uruguay the strong executive it badly needs.

The proposal is supported by large factions of the two major political parties. It comes up for a vote in the general elections scheduled for November, and the Communists can now be expected to raise hell in the meantime.



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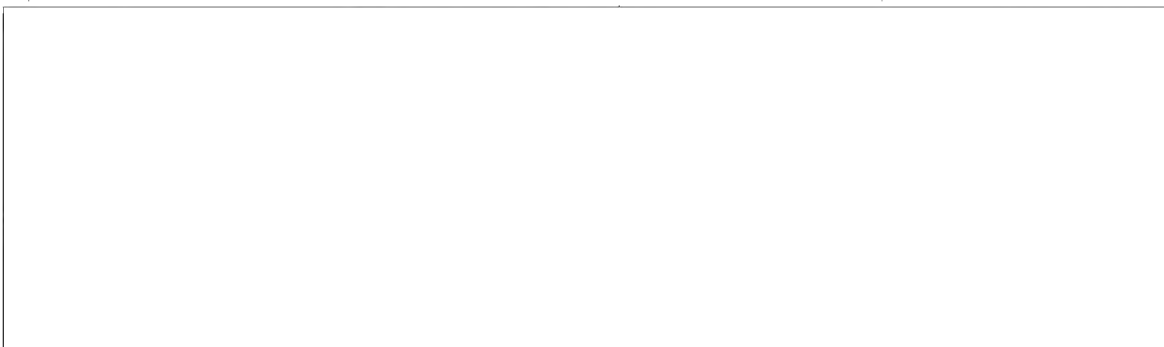


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